



# Missouri Nursery Pest News

Office of the State Entomologist  
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**Timely information for Missouri's green industry!**

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Date: April 16, 2003

## Recent Observations:

### East Central Missouri

Vanhouttei Spirea is in bloom! This blooming plant serves as a great indicator of treatment timing for the vulnerable stages of many plant pests. Some of these pests listed in "Coincide," by Don Orton, are as follows, with the bloom stage given: **Blooming** - alder leaf miner, birch leaf miner, elm leaf beetle, European pine sawfly, Fletcher scale, hawthorn leaf miner, juniper tip midge, leaf crumpler, ash/lilac borer, pine needle scale, scurfy scale, Taxus mealybug; **Full to late bloom** - flat-headed appletree borer, roundheaded appletree borer, barberry caterpillar, black vine weevil, bronze birch borer, gypsy moth, brown and gray oystershell scales, peach tree borers, viburnum crown borers, juniper webworm. Other pests such as other clearwing borers, caterpillars, scales, and even some fungal diseases (rusts, blights) are also controlled with spray applications directed at their vulnerable stage associated with this time of year. If you have a history of reacting to damage by these pests, now is a good time to take some preventive steps to avoid damage this year.

Many important pests can be controlled with sprays starting at this time. As a group, borers tend to be near the top of the list of economically destructive pests in many nurseries causing plant stress, decline and death, not to mention quarantines from sale. The first (timely) applications have proven very effective in control of these pests, followed with applications in 2 to 4 week intervals (depending on the chemical being used) and destruction of other heavily infested trees in the nursery. Thorough trunk coverage with the appropriate chemical at the proper time is the key to control of many borers. Remember the goal is to PREVENT them from getting into the plants in the first place and now is the time to do that.

Contributions by Susan Ehlenbeck, Plant Protection Specialist, St. Louis Area

**Remember:** Before using any chemical, always read the label carefully for directions on application procedures, appropriate rates, first aid, storage, and disposal. Make sure chemical is properly registered for use on the intended pest. Any products named are not intended as endorsements, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned. These recommendations are based on observations and conditions in Missouri.